

## CLAIMS

1. A method for detecting an inhibitor of p53 protein degradation comprising providing a cell extract containing one or more p53 proteins and one or more proteases, administering an inhibitor of calpain protease activity, and measuring p53 protein and p53 protein fragments.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the inhibitor is a calpastatin.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the calpastatin is encoded by one of SEQ ID NO: 1-3.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the cell extract is derived from a tumor cell.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the inhibitor is a fragment of calpastatin.
6. The method of claim 4, wherein the inhibitor is a calpastatin.
7. The method of claim 4, wherein the inhibitor is a fragment of calpastatin.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein measuring the p53 protein and p53 protein fragments is performed using gel electrophoresis.